(b) and (c) The Union Government does not provide financial assistance to the States/Union Territories for rehabilitation of sick SSIs. Financial assistance for the rehabilitation of sick SSIs is provided by the primary lending institutions (PLIs), including the commercial banks. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has, however, an exclusive Refinance Scheme for the PLIs in respect of financial assistance extended by them for rehabilitation of sick SSI units. The SIDBI has cumulatively sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 62.94 crore and Rs. 32.21 crore respectively to 1,260 sick SSI units under the Refinance Scheme for Rehabilitation of Sick SSI Units, as at the end of March, 2005.

Profit of ISRO

2646. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to capture 10 percent share in the global market for launch vehicles and related services;

(b) the amount that has been earned by ISRO in 2004-05 on providing the facility of launching and other related services; and

(c) the details of countries which have evinced interest in using services of CARTOSAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Indian launch vehicle programme is mainly intended to meet domestic requirements. After meeting internal requirements residual capacity is made available for commercial launches for other countries.

The present annual forecast for launch demand globally is about 15-20 launches into Geostationary orbits and about 3 to 6 launches into other orbits. Considering the current market scenario and heavy competition, a maximum of 5% of the global market share can be targeted by Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the marketing arm of ISRO.

Antrix has been in touch with the potential customers in Europe, Canada, Singapore, Indonesia, etc., to offer the launch services. Further, a cooperation agreement was also entered into between Antrix and Arianespace of France, for launch of small as well as larger satellites, by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite

Launch Vehicle (GSLV). Promotional efforts are also undertaken through participation in appropriate exhibitions from time to time in order to create greater awareness of our launch capability among potential customers.

(b) In 2004-05, ISRO through contracts made by Antrix with foreign customers received payments amounting to Rs. 10.54 Crores towards launch services on PSLV and Rs. 261 Crores for mission support services;

(c) USA, Germany, France, Russia, Japan Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Algeria, Venezuela, UAE and Sudan have evinced interest in using services of CARTOSAT.

Bridging the gap between rural and urban areas through Satellites

2647. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what way CARTOSAT, INSAT and EDUSAT are meeting the societal needs of the country;

(b) whether there are any plans before Government to bridge the digital divide between the people living in rural areas and urban areas with the help of satellites; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) CARTOSAT-1 provides data for generating three dimensional maps that help in planning urban and rural development, land, water resources management, disaster assessment, relief planning and management, INSAT satellites are used for communications, broadcasting, meteorological services, disaster management support, Tele-medicine, Training & Development Communication. EDUSAT provides connectivity for schools, colleges higher levels of education to support formal and non-formal education including developmental communications.

(b) and (c) Communication satellites such as INSAT and EDUSAT provide the means for bridging the digital divide. Tele-medicine and